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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/461,738	12/16/1999	HIROOMI MOTOHASHI	0557-4875-2	4201
22850	7590	06/27/2006	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			GRANT II, JEROME	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	
DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/461,738	MOTOHASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jerome Grant II	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 10-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 10,12,13 and 15 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 11 and 14 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

~~JEROME GRANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER~~

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

1. Detailed Action

Claims 1-9 and 16-140 are canceled.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 10, 12, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagashima.

With respect to claim 10, Nagashima teaches an image formation apparatus connected to at least a second image formation apparatus such that data communications can be executed between the image formation apparatus, said first image formation apparatus comprising: a reading unit 1 as claimed; a printing unit 111 as claimed; a display unit 45 as claimed; a controller 120 configured to execute a link copy mode (more than 1 printer is utilized other than printer 111) for transferring data to a second image formation apparatus (anyone of printers 112-118) to share printing of the read image with the first image formation apparatus, wherein the first image forming

apparatus is configured to display a link copy mode only keys (sk1-sk5) for selection of usable functions (multiple print mode) in the link copy mode as claimed. Note also the job read by reader 1 is printed by printer 111 of the first apparatus and printers 112-118 of the second image formation apparatus.

With respect to claim 12, see figures 1 and 3 regarding the peer to peer hook up.

With respect to claim 13, Nagashima teaches an image formation system(see figures 1 and 3) having a link copy mode in which, of a plurality of image formation apparatus (1-4) in combination with 100 and at least printer 111 for enabling communications as claimed. Nagashima teaches transferring image data to another image formation apparatus (printers 112-118) as a slave machine as claimed; wherein each slave machine is configured to report functions in said slave machine (such as cassette size, status commands and printer functions, see col. 15, lines 45-50 and col. 16, lines 9-26. Nagashima teaches copy mode keys (sk1-sk5) to permit selection of usable functions which all of the master and each of the slave machines are able to execute, see col. 16, lines 9-17.

With respect to claim 15, see figures 1 and 3.

2.

Claims Objected As Containing Allowable Matter

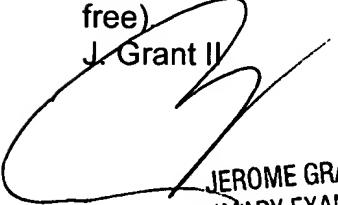
Claims 11 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 571-272-7463. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore, can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

J. Grant II



JEROME GRANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER